

In the Specification:

[0033] FIG. 11 shows the VARTM method using tape 39. Layers of tape 39 are laid in the lower portion of mold 13, then vacuum bag 32 is placed over tape 39 and lower portion 21 to form mold cavity 33. Vacuum bag 32 is formed of a material capable of withstanding the high-temperatures needed for complete pyrolyzation of the fugitive binder, for example, a high-temperature ~~polyimide~~ polyamide film. Air is evacuated from cavity 33, and bag 32 compacts the layers of tape 39 onto surface 31 of lower portion 21. Hot nitrogen gas is injected through injection ports 23 for pyrolyzing the fugitive binder, as described for the RTM method, the gas exiting then through vent ports 25. Once the binder is pyrolyzed, lower portion 21 is cooled, then a vacuum is pulled within cavity 33, and resin is injected through port 23 to fill cavity 33 and wet tape 39. The resin is cured, and bag 32 is removed prior to removal of the component.